

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 DHA-02 /059 W  
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R 271731Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT  
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
SECSTATE WASHDC 2653

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 4142

E. O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, MO, IS  
SUBJ: ISRAELI VISITS TO MOROCCO

REF: TEL AVIV 5375

1. REFTEL PARA 5 REQUESTED OUR EVALUATION OF GOM MOTIVATIONS BEHIND INVITATIONS TO PROMINENT ISRAELIS TO VISIT MOROCCO. WHILE "REAL" MOTIVATIONS ARE COMPLEX AND BEST KNOWN TO KING HASSAN AND HIS CLOSE ASSOCIATES, WE JUDGE THAT MOROCCAN POLICY IS BASED ON DESIRE (A) TO PLAY AN ACTIVE, CONCILIATORY ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS AND (B) TO REINFORCE TRADITIONAL CLOSE TIES BETWEEN THE MONARCHY AND MOROCCAN JEWISH COMMUNITY.

2. ON MIDDLE EAST LEVEL, GOM HAS KEPT UP A CONSTANT FLOW OF VISITS IN BOTH DIRECTIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, DURING PAST WEEK LEBANESE CHRISTIAN LEADER PIERRE GEMAYEL ON JULY 22 COMPLETED SIX-DAY STAY IN MOROCCO AT INVITATION OF KING HASSAN, WHO ALSO WELCOMED PLO CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER KHALED AL-HASSAN ON JULY 25.  
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3. SEMI-OFFICIAL LE MATIN JUNE 24 CARRIED AUTHORITATIVE EDITORIAL ON HASSAN'S MIDDLE EAST APPROACH. PAPER COMMENTED THAT "EVERY TIME THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST DETERIORATES AND THE ARAB NATION SEEKS A GESTURE OF PACIFICATION OR A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM AT HAND...ALL EYES TURN TOWARD RABAT, VISTS AND DEMARCHES FOLLOW ONE ANOTHER, AND EMISSARIES AND HIGH LEVEL GUESTS

COME TO REQUEST AUDIENCE WITH KING HASSAN II IN ORDER TO SOLICIT HIS INTERVENTION OR HIS MEDIATION." PAPER FURTHER MAINTAINED THAT "KING HASSAN HAS ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO MODIFYING A PART OF ISRAELI OPINION IN RECEIVING JEWISH LEADERS SUCH AS NAHUM GOLDMAN, PRESIDENT OF WORLD JEWISH COMMITTEE, AND OTHER PERSONALITIES SUCH AS ANDRE CHOURAKI." ACCORDING TO THIS ACCOUNT, KING, AFTER HAVING REAFFIRMED RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO A HOMELAND, DEMONSTRATED TO THESE VISITORS THAT THE ONLY POSSIBLE APPROACH WAS THAT OF A DIALOGUE AND THAT ANY QUESTION, NO MATTER WHAT ITS GRAVITY, MUST FIND ITS SOLUTION IN NEGOTIATION. EDITORIAL CONCLUDED THAT ONLY KING HASSAN WAS ABLE TO TAKE SUCH A POSITION BECAUSE HE HAD NO COMPLEXES AND REMAINED TRUE TO HIS POLICIES AND HIS PHILOSOPHY: IT WAS HE WHO FIRST STIPULATED A MULTINATIONAL AND MULTICONFESSIONAL PALESTINE, AND, DURING 1974 RABAT ARAB SUMMIT, HE HAD INSISTED ON THE NEED TO RECOGNIZE THE PLO AS SOLE VALID REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

4. WHILE KING, COMPARED TO "FRONT-LINE" LEADERS, IS A PERIPHERAL ACTOR IN MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM, HE FEELS THAT HE HAS IN PAST BEEN ABLE TO PLAY HELPFUL ROLE, MAINLY THROUGH QUIET DIPLOMACY. FURTHERMORE, HE IS UNIQUE AMONG ARAB LEADERS IN HAVING HAD DIRECT PUBLIC CONTACT WITH ISRAELIS. KING NO DOUBT HOPES TO EXPAND THIS INCIPENT RELATIONSHIP, WHICH MIGHT GRADUALLY REINFORCE HIS ABILITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO A MIDDLE EAST ACCOMMODATION.

5. INTERNALLY, TRADITIONAL POLICY OF THE MONARCHY, BEGINNING  
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BEFORE INDEPENDENCE WITH HASSAN'S FATHER, MOHAMMAD V, HAS BEEN TO PROTECT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY. IT IS FREQUENTLY RECALLED THAT MOHAMMAD V OPPOSED THE DISCRIMINATORY EDICTS OF VICHY FRENCH GOVERNMENT. KING HASSAN IN TURN HAS SUCCEEDED IN WARDING OFF POTENTIAL ADVERSE EFFECTS ON JEWISH COMMUNITY FROM 1967 AND 1973 ARAB-JEWISH WARS. KING WOULD CLEARLY LIKE TO MAINTAIN MOROCCAN JEWISH COMMUNITY AT LEAST AT PRESENT LEVEL OF ABOUT 18,000, AND WOULD NO DOUBT BE PLEASED AT ANY SIGNIFICANT RESPONSE BY JEWISH EMIGRES TO HIS INVITATION FOR THEM TO RETURN. WHILE SUCH RETURN WOULD BE IN KEEPING WITH GENERAL ARAB POLICY, IT WOULD ALSO BE WELCOME TO GOM INTERNALLY AS A SIGN THAT RETURNING EMIGRES RECOGNIZED STABILITY OF THE REGIME AND VIEWED A FUTURE IN MOROCCO AS PROMISING. IN ANY EVENT KING UNDOUBTEDLY SEES AN ENLIGHTENED, OPEN-DOOR POLICY TOWARD JEWS OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY -- INCLUDING ISRAELIS -- AS A MEANS OF REASSURING HIS OWN JEWISH COMMUNITY OF OFFICIAL MODERATION AND WISDOM.  
ANDERSON

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## Message Attributes

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